

Application No. 10/648,305

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 17 have been rejected. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 17 have been amended. Claims 2 – 5, 8 – 11 and 13 – 14 have been cancelled.

The specification has been amended to correct certain informalities as suggested by the examiner regarding the brief description of Figure 2. Applicants have inserted the word “to” after the word “manner” in para [0009], line 2. Similarly for clarity the figures 1 and 2 show the flange as being reference numeral 4 while figures 4 – 10 refer to the flange as reference numeral 14. The amendment to paragraph [0019] reflects this fact. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is accordingly requested.

The examiner objected to the term “near” in claim 3 as being indefinite. Applicants cancelled claim 3. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell et al., US 6,609,672 and claims 1 – 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gerow, US 2,315,718. Each reference according to the examiner allegedly shows:

- “torsion bar (20)
- gear (32) integral therewith, the gear is arranged at/near the end of the torsion bar (see figure 2)
- flange (14) integral with the torsion bar with a circumferential groove (Fig 2) extending more deeply than the periphery of the adjacent gear (32), between the flange and the gear”

And allegedly Bell showed those claimed features as well as

“ a second gear (30) integral with the torsion bar at the other end thereof.”

Additionally the examiner noted “Regarding claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 the recitation “created by a rolling operation” is given no patentable weight. Product by process claims are not limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only the structure implied by the steps”

Claim 1 as amended recites the circumferential groove (5) extends into the bar material more deeply in a radial direction than the gear. This as stated in paragraph [0004] of the specification. Furthermore, this is as is shown in each of figures 1, 4, and 5-10. More particularly, the tool 10 in figure 9 shows the projection 12 which forms the groove 5 on the gear 2 clearly extending much deeper radially inwardly than the gear teeth to form a circumferential groove having a side boundary surface on the flange and a side boundary surface adjacent to and radially deeper than the gear. Bell et al. show in figure 2 a torsion bar wherein the gear teeth project outward from the torsion bar and

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the space between the flange 35 and the gear is not shown deeper than the gear teeth. As a result the alleged groove, if such a space could be considered a groove, does not have a side boundary surface adjacent to or radially deeper than the gear.

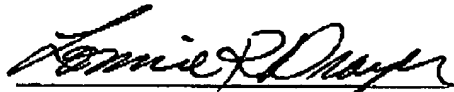
Similarly the Gerow, in figure 3, has the surface 33 as clearly shown in figure 2 above the trough of the gear teeth and thus is not a groove with a side boundary surface as defined in amended claim 1.

For these reasons applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw these rejections.

Applicants further wish to argue that the functional method of forming the torsion bar should be allowed patentable weight as products produced by a process can be considered for patentability. Accordingly the product as defined in claim 1 has the amended product by process claims 6, 7 appended thereto which should be considered proper additional limitations to structural claims.

Applicants believe the above amendment has placed the claims in a condition of allowability and urge the examiner to pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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